

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LYON 00020 301812Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 TRSE-00 /070 W
-----090781 302319Z /75

R 301620Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL LYON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1097
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS LYON 0020

E.O. 11652 :N/A
TAGS : PINT FR
SUBJECT : VILLEURBANNE, MANOEUVRES CONTINUE ON THE LEFT

1. IN A MOVE WIDELY SEEN AS A PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT
RATHER THAN A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EVENT, THE COMMUNISTS
FIRED ANOTHER SALVO IN THEIR LONG STANDING AND INCREASINGLY
BITTER QUARREL WITH THE SOCIALISTS IN VILLEURBANNE.
IN A RECENT INTERVIEW GIVEN TO THE OPPOSITION GAULLIST
PAPER, L APPEL , COMMUNIST LEADER GEORGE MARCHAIS
INDICATED THAT CERTAIN COMMUNIST CANDIDATES FOR THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD STEP ASIDE IN THE INTEREST
OF GREATER UNITY AND PLURALISM ON THE LEFT. THUS
ON LAST THURSDAY, COMMUNIST RENE DESGRAND
PULLED OUT OF THE VILLEURBANNE RACE THROWING HIS SUPPORT
BEHIND PSU CANDIDATE, CLAUDE BOURDET, AND THEREFORE
AGAINST SOCIALIST, CHARLES HERNU.

2. HERNU IMMEDIATELY LASHED OUT AT THE COMMUNIST PARTY
AND BOURDET, CLAIMING THAT THE FORMER HAD DESERTED
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THEIR PARTY RANKS AND FILE, WHILE THE LATTER WOULD
NOT BE SEEN AGAIN IN VILLEURBANNE AFTER THE ELECTIONS .
POINTING OUT THAT THE P.S.U. HAD NEVER SIGNED THE
COMMON PROGRAM, HERNU CALLED ON THE CITY S LEFTITS
TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR SUPPORT BEHIND HIM THE ONLY
CANDIDATE OF THE UNIFIED LEFT .

3. COUNTER-ATTACKING VIGOROUSLY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, DESGRAND STATED THAT IN VIEW OF HERNU S PAST RECORD HE COULD NOT BE THE CANDIDATE OF THE UNIFIED LEFT. HE CALLED HIS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE RACE A DECISION MADE BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY AS A GESTURE OF OPENNESS TOWARDS OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE LEFT. WHILE CONTINUING TO INCIDATE THAT DIFFERENCES EXISTED BETWEEN THE POLITICS OF THE P.S.U. AND THE COMMUNISTS, DESGRAND STATED THAT THE POINTS OF CONVERGENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES COVERED THOSE POINTS WHICH THE SOCIALISTS HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT IN THE UPDATING OF THE COMMON PROGRAM .
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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